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BIG PIG PYTHONS AND THEIR HUGE SWALLOW.

(Continued from page 17.)

After retaining it for two days, he disgorged the article, rolled into a compact wad.

The sense of taste in serpents is very keen. If chickens are kept in a dirty box, these reptiles will refuse to feed on them. If a python bites into the crop of a chicken containing bad-tasting matter, he will drop the chicken. To test the condition of the serpent, a blackthorn was given a stale egg. This species is very fond of eggs, but no sooner had the shell broken in his stomach than he commenced vomiting, and continued till the stomach was completely evacuated.

It is a common belief that snakes are so plentiful in India that one can scarcely walk about without stepping on them. This is erroneous. It is possible to live for considerable periods of time in that country without as much as catching a glimpse of a snake. And this is especially true of the pig pythons. Doctor Hornaday spent two years hunting in India and Borneo, and yet he declares he never saw but one python, and that was a small one.

The pythons are timid and shy, and lie coiled among the foliage of trees or shrubs, or in the dense grass on the ground. They never attack man or the large animals so long as they are unmolested.

THE STAR'S TEN MINUTE STORY.

(Continued from page 17.)

looked flushed and uncomfortable and turned eagerly to the yacht owner.

"Come," she said, "I want to take you to Flirtation Walk," and she motioned to Gordon to hand over her things.

"Certainly," rejoined Huntington, "but I have a duty to perform first."

He stepped up to the young midshipman.

"I have been very rude," he said. "I have neglected to congratulate you on your engagement to Miss Patience. I do so now, most sincerely. We shall see you again. Come, are you ready, Miss Meredith?"

He had never spoken so distinctly in his life. The young lady did not linger over her good-byes, and they hurried off, leaving the two members of the united service glowering at each other like two belligerent powers.

Once outside, Miss Meredith discovered that she had a headache, and was eager to get back to the yacht.

"But how about Flirtation Walk?" Huntington wanted to know.

"Oh," she answered, "here comes auntie and Colonel Hecker. They will tell you all about it. I see they have been strolling there."

The stroll must have been to some purpose, for Huntington received cards to their wedding a month ago, three weeks before he himself married Miss Van Vechten.

"I wonder," he sometimes asks the curling wreaths of smoke from his cigar—"I wonder if we hadn't stopped at the Point that day, whether the army or the navy or I would have had possession of Miss Patience Meredith?"

For he happened to know, through the Colonel, that she is Miss Patience Meredith still.

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